



Bureau: Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Land Management: Nevada Veteran Hand Crew Headed for Success

There may not be such a thing as an overnight success but the Bureau of Land Management's veteran handcrew in Nevada is as close to it as it gets.

From approval earlier this year as one of three veteran handcrews in BLM to hosting recruiting sessions at Marine

Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and Luke Air Force

Base to selecting almost 20 individuals to securing buggies from the Arizona Strip, the Nevada Veteran Handcrew to be stationed in Las Vegas, has made incredible headway in a short timeframe.

Other than incredible drive, what could make this success possible? The Veteran's Recruitment Appointment, a special authority by which agencies can appoint an eligible veteran without competition to a position up to and including a GS-11 or equivalent that would otherwise be competitive. After two years of satisfactory service, the veteran is converted into a career-conditional appointment in the competitive service.

VRA has provided a tangible opportunity to increase workplace diversity since veterans have learned to work side by side with individuals regardless of diverse race, gender, geographic origin, ethnic background, religion, and economic status as well as mental, physical, and attitudinal capabilities. They have the sensitivity to cooperate with many different types of individuals and have learned to cope with stressful situations, having the capacity to adapt to changing priorities with patience and perseverance.

The crew is currently working throughout Nevada and other states as needed.

The names of the veteran handcrew follow:



Secretary Ken Salazar (center) and Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey (to the right of Salazar) visit with members of the BLM's veteran handcrew at the BLM Red Rock Fire Station in Southern Nevada on May 7, 2012. The crew, one of three that the BLM hired under the Veteran's Recruitment Appointment Authority, is already working throughout Nevada and other states. Photo by Tami Heilemann, DOI Office of Communications.

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Important Links:

[BLM-Veterans](#)

[Video - BLM-Southern Nevada Unveils Its New All-veteran Fire Crew*](#)